

Youths Told of Need for Leaders

Torrance

Press-Herald

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GAS EXPLOSION ROCKS HOME

Zoning Study Halted

Plans for a new study of a 100-acre tract which owners once proposed to develop as a cemetery were abandoned last night by the City Council.

Councilmen, by unanimous vote, rescinded an order issued last week to the city's Planning Commission after developer Don Wilson asked that the city reconsider its previous action.

Wilson, appearing before the council last night, told the council his part of the 100-acre parcel "will be developed according to what the city wants." The land currently is zoned M-2 (heavy manufacturing).

A PLAN to develop most of the area, located south of 235th Street and west of Crenshaw Boulevard, as a cemetery was defeated last week by a 4-3 vote of the city council. Councilmen then instructed the Planning Commission to initiate a new study of the area directed toward changing the M-2 zone to M-1 (light manufacturing).

Purpose of the zone change was to eliminate the need for rail service, thereby increasing chances that a railway spur now running through the area could be removed. Removal of the track has been cited as a factor in a proposed urban development along Madrona Avenue.

The spur track, which runs south from Torrance Boulevard parallel to Madrona Avenue, would divide the present Del Amo Center from the high-rise complex envisioned east of Madrona Avenue, according to zoning maps. (See ZONE, Page A-2)



BLAST ROCKS HOME . . . Interior of the Jack D. Allen home at 2112 W. 238th St. is scrambled following an explosion last night. Firemen said natural gas accumulations throughout the house were ignited by a pilot light. None of the five members of the Allen family suffered major injuries, although all windows in the home were blown out and plaster stripped from the walls by the blast. Major structural damage to the house also was reported.

Two Injured, Three Others Flee Unhurt

A home in southeast Torrance was virtually blown apart just before 8:30 last night when accumulations of natural gas apparently were ignited by a pilot light and exploded.

None of the five persons inside the house at the time of the explosion suffered serious injuries, according to the Torrance Police Department.

Firemen were called to the Jack D. Allen home at 2112 W. 238th St. following the explosion. All windows were blown out and the walls were stripped of plaster by the blast, firemen said.

INJURED WERE Mrs. Christine Allen, 35, and her 10-year-old daughter, Julie. Mrs. Allen was treated at Kaiser Hospital in Harbor City for flash burns about her face and hands.

Julie, who was in the shower at the time, sustained a small cut on her chin. Allen and two other daughters, Stephanie, 11, and Cathy, 13, were uninjured in the blast.

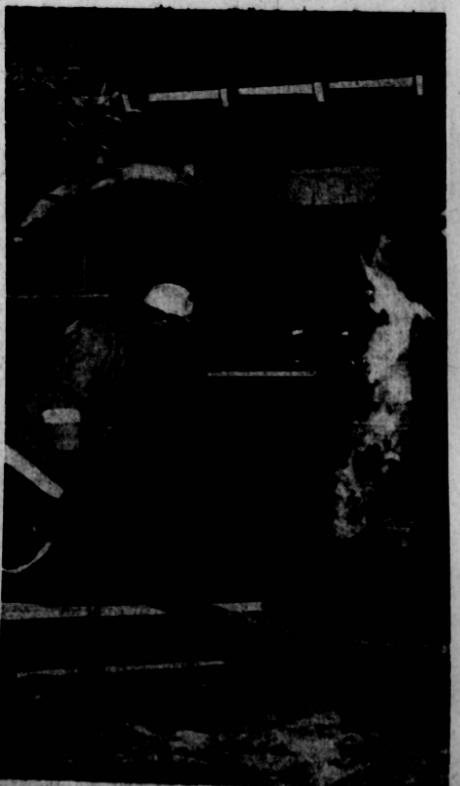
"It's incredible that anyone survived," Police Sgt. Gene Erbetta said after visiting the scene.

THE ALLEN family spent last night with neighbors.

Bn. Ch. John Agapito of the Torrance Fire Department told the Press-Herald gas had seeped under the structure and collected in the air space in the walls and ceiling. He said it was probably ignited by the pilot light from a water heater or floor furnace.

Allen had recently completed an addition to the home. The house suffered major structural damage, Agapito said. The Allen family had lived in the house for about five years.

The explosion demolished an exterior wall near the gas meter, leading firemen to believe the leak was in an exterior natural gas line. They allowed flames to burn, however, in an effort to trace the source of the leak.



FLAMES FOLLOW . . . Firemen allow fire to continue burning after an explosion rocked the Jack D. Allen home at 2112 W. 238th St. about 8:30 p.m. last night. Firemen said they would try to determine where a natural gas leak, blamed for the explosion, was located by tracing the flames. (Press-Herald Photos by Hal Fisher)

Government Careers Are Rewarding, Editor Says

A career in government was called "the most meaningful of all careers" by Murray Brown, editor of Western City Magazine in luncheon address which kicked off Torrance's 10th annual Junior Citizens Day yesterday.

Addressing student leaders from five high schools who filled the shoes of the city's appointed and elected officials for the day, Brown said there is "a crying need for trained young people to run the cities of the future."

"More than 75 per cent of the population today lives in cities," he pointed out. "Research indicates that there is

a tremendous need for qualified people to administer them."

OPPORTUNITIES for public service exist in every field — "From A to Z, airport manager to zoning specialists, they run the gamut," he said.

Brown listed the advantages of a public service career as: the opportunity to share in making the environment in which we live, permanency of employment, opportunity to select the locale in which one wishes to be employed, and pride of accomplishment.

Salary was secondary, he stated, although pay for beginners and persons in the middle brackets "is comparable to private industry."

"THE CHALLENGE of the job is the key benefit of a career in public service," Brown said.

"You are needed and your contribution can be used by city hall," he said to the young people in closing. "A dynamic future awaits you."

In introductory remarks, Dr. J. H. Hull told the students that there is a dearth of leadership in America today (See CAREERS, Page A-2)

'Chicken' Thief Gets Big Haul

Torrance police have their eyes open these days for a "chicken" thief who got away with 218 frozen chickens early Monday.

James Pahlron, an employee at a restaurant at 20669 S. Hawthorne Blvd., told police someone took the chickens, which were packed in nine cases, by prying open a locked door.

Joslyn Chorus Slates First Concert Sunday

"Holiday in Song" will be theme for the first annual concert by the Joslyn Community Chorus Sunday afternoon at 2:30 at the Torrance Recreation Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd.

The concert, first for the Torrance Recreation Department group, will be presented in three parts featuring three different musical groups.

The Joslyn Community Chorus, under the direction of Walter Wittel, will perform a variety of holiday favorites.

North Band Will March In Parade

North High's marching band and drill team will compete in the Huntington Beach Christmas Parade Saturday.

This is the first band review competition in which the Saxon band has participated.

Senior Rolly Reyes and Junior Norman McCracken are drum majors for the band and will lead the group.

The drill team will march in formation led by Sue DeCallies and Toni Reynolds, according to Miss Mary Morrison, instructor of the drill team.

The band will compete against 50 other Southern California schools, according to Robert Jones, band director.

Guest artists at the concert will be members of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America. Warren Grant is program chairman for the group. The concert, open to the public without charge, will feature a variety of Christmas music.

Football Players Cited . . .

Twelve young men, considered the best high school football players in the city, are honored today as the Press-Herald names its annual All-Torrance Football team. The 1966 Press-Herald team is headed by Danny Graham, the Bishop Montgomery Knights quarterback who last established a new CIF career record for touchdowns passes. Graham is accorded honors as the "Player of the Year" for the second consecutive season. Pictures of the 12-man team highlight today's sports section, which begins on Page C-3.

Demonstrators Arrested . . .

Two persons were charged with a violation of the city's parade permit ordinance late yesterday afternoon in connection with a demonstration at the Dow Chemical Co., 365 S. Crenshaw Blvd. Booked on the misdemeanor charges at the Torrance City Jail were Roger Alan Barkley, 19, of Long Beach, and his 21-year-old wife, Sylvia A. Barkley. Police said the two were demonstrating in front of the chemical plant in violation of an ordinance which requires a city permit for parades and demonstrations.

Wooden Bridge Burns . . .

Vermont Avenue was closed to traffic south of Sepulveda Boulevard about 6 p.m. last night when a wooden bridge burst into flames. Six county fire units were called to the scene and brought the fire under control in about an hour. The fire, which did an estimated \$100,000 damage to the bridge, may have been caused by children playing with matches, a spokesman for the County Fire Department said. The bridge crosses a railway which cuts through the area.

IN MOCK SESSION

Teen Councilmen Favor Night Club

By MIKE EGGERS
Press-Herald Staff Writer
If teenagers really ran the city — as they tried to do yesterday during the 10th annual Junior Citizens Day—a new night club would open soon across the street from West High School.

The night club — Playboux International—won out over residents of the area last night during a just-for-fun council meeting conducted by students from the city's high schools. The vote of the junior "councilmen" was 5-2.

But the youths did make one concession to the 300 "residents" protesting the bunny club — a 90-foot flashing neon sign was ruled "unnecessary" since the club is to be a "very private" one.

The knotty zoning problem was prepared for participants in the annual Junior Citizens Day by the city's Planning Department to demonstrate to them some of the problems faced by city planners.

The proposed club, located in a residential area at Del

Amo Boulevard and Henrietta Street, would seat 300 persons who could drink and listen to a five-piece band in an open patio until 2 a.m.

Club President Jack Rabbit, claimed there is a "definite need for this type of club in the area and said waitresses would wear as much clothing — or more — as people on the beach." Contrary to rumors, he said, "there will be no girls from West High working at the club."

It was noted that no parking lot was planned, leading Councilman H. Ted Olson to quip that parking meters could be installed in the area and the revenue added to the city treasury.

Junior Councilmen Mary Boughen, Neil Campbell, Ulrich Jaeger, and Scott Kerwin joined Student Mayor Allan Brown in voting for the club, while Peter Dunhaver cast a negative vote. Mike Lewis was absent, but was noted as voting "no."

But, then, teenagers don't run the city.



JUNIOR LEADERS . . . Mayer Allan Brown (seated), rubbing for Albert Isen during yesterday's 10th annual Junior Citizens Day, studies his agenda prior to last night's council meeting, at which he presided. Offering tips to the mayor are (from left) City Manager Edward J. Ferraro, the real Mayor Isen, and Chuck Bongard, who filled in for Ferraro. Brown is Torrance High student body president and Bongard is a senior at Bishop Montgomery High School. (Press-Herald Photo)